

20th February 2001
MW/scb (all01705)
Q00903W010

SUMMARY

The invention relates to a method for manufacturing a surface-alloyed cylindrical, partly cylindrical or hollow cylindrical structural member where in the zone of incidence of the energy beam there is formed a locally bounded melting bath with a heating and melting front, a solution zone and a solidification front. At the side of the energy beam the hard material powder is deposited via a conveyor device in the direction of gravity and is supplied co-ordinated with the feed movement of the workpiece in a width which corresponds to the width of the linear focus and a layer height of 0.3 - 3 mm is thereby produced. The hard-material powder supplied to the workpiece surface in the heating front of the melting bath is heated by an energy beam at a wavelength of 780 - 940 nm and in contact with the liquefied matrix alloy the powder is immediately dissolved in the melting bath. Convection is produced in the solution zone by the energy beam having a specific power of at least 10^4 W/cm², so that the homogenisation process in the melting zone is accelerated, where the linear focus acts on the solution zone until the hard material powder is uniformly distributed in the melting bath. In front of the energy beam the uniformly distributed powder material, which has gone into solution metallurgically in the solution zone, is subjected to directional solidification in the

Figure 1